tan from 25 January to 4 February 1992.

In addition to the above, Indian businessmen and private individuals regularly visit these Republics.

(b) The Presidents of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan have already visited India. The Heads of State of Kirkhizstan, Tadjikstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan have been invited to visit India. The invitations have been accepted and dates for their visits are being finalised through diplomatic channels.

Agreements/Treaties would be signed with each of the independent Republics of the erstwhile USSR after bilateral consultations taking into account complementarity of interests and the need for development of cooperation in diverse and specific areas for mutual benefit. Some agreements have already been signed with Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. Discussions are underway for conclusion of such agreements with the other Republics, i.e. Kirkhistan, Turkmenistan and Tadjikistan, as necessary.

Strengthening India's relations with Yugoslavia

1626. SHRI RAJMOHAN GANDHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to improve India's understanding of and links with the different Republics of Yugoslavia;

(b) the steps taken by Government to respond more efficiently to the changing situation in the different countries of East Europe?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MAHADVSINH SOLANKI): (a) As founder-members of the Non-aligned Movement, India and Yugoslavia have traditionally hod closed and friendly relations. Substantial interaction has been held in diverse fields of cooperation, not with the Central authorities but also with the individual Republics of Yugoslavia.

(b) India's traditionally friendly and mutually beneficial relations with the countries of Eastern Europe will be further strengthened consequent to the changes there.

It is Government's endeavour to fully utilise this potential for furthering mutually beneficial cooperation.

World summit for children, 1990

1627. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India participated in the 1990 world summit for children which set out the objectives of ending mass malnutrition, preventible disease and illiteracy before the end of the current decade;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India has not yet ratified the convention adopted at the summit;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to achieve the objectives set out in the said convention?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The ratification process involves extensive consultations with different Ministries of the Government. These are expected to be completed shortly.

(d) A national plan of action to achieve the objectives of the World Summit Declaration and Plan of Action is presently under finalisation.